

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

January 20, 2011

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair*
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Bruce Brown
Norman Greene
Roz King

City Staff Present

Scott Reese
Laura Ball
Jo-Ann Novak
Matt Sanford
Kenneth So
Chris Zirkle

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Chair, Mr. Stepner, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2010

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Kinney

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Kinney to approve the November 18, 2010 meeting minutes. (6-0)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

NON-AGENDA COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee – No Report

Balboa Park Committee

- Committee meeting was held on Saturday, January 8th and focused on Plaza de Panama with approximately 200 people in attendance. The consultant was in attendance and presented updated concepts. Some committee members had concerns about the bridge bypass and the activities / uses proposed for the plaza.

Design Review Committee

- Mike Singleton, Principal, KTU+A Landscape Architects made a one hour presentation on the Fiesta Island Precise Plan followed by about an hour of discussion and questions by the Committee. The Committee voted 6-0 to approve the project. The next step is to complete the environmental including an update to the biological survey and then the plan will be brought to the Park and Recreation Board for review, likely in the fall.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee

- At the December meeting the Fiesta Island Precise Plan was heard. The Committee approved with a 6-2 vote.
- At the January meeting the Telecommunication Tower (AT&T) in Bonita Cove was heard and was passed unanimously.
- Next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2011.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- The Committee met in November and discussed the success of Basket and Botany event.
- At the January meeting the Committee discussed the 40 years of service by Eloise Battle. A celebration will take place on February 16, 2011.
- Park Ranger Tracey Walker gave a report on the storm damage that occurred in the Tri-Canyon. Homeless areas were scrubbed due to the heavy rains. Department staff are documenting the trail system to deter the return of homeless encampments.
- A baby horned lizard (endangered species) was seen in the canyon which is a significant indicator of the quality of habitat. Mr. Bussell invited all to visit Tecolote Canyon.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico provided a hand-out (see attachment) on Park and Recreation Department information to the Board Members. Mr. Reese provided an overview of each item.

Ms. Granowitz asked where the Department was on the Community Gardens. Mr. Reese stated that the Department will send out for public outreach in the near future. The Department staff is also working on Department Instruction to provide guidelines for community gardens. Ms. Granowitz would like to ensure that new Council Members understand the difference between vacant park land and regulations being promulgated by the Development Service Department (DSD) for application on vacant properties within the City. Mr. Reese stated that park land and vacant land within the City are different and therefore a different approach will be used in each situation. Community Gardens may include vegetable gardens, demonstration gardens (low water use), floral gardens, and native seed nurseries.

Mr. Bussell asked if the on-line registration would be ready prior to July or August timeframe. (Mr. Reese stated they wanted to have a pilot program set-up for late summer and fall usage.)

Mr. Diehl noticed that synthetic turf memo addressed only athletic field use and not dog park use. Mr. Reese commented that the guidelines related only to athletic field turf and that synthetic turf used in dog play areas is a different product. Mr. Stepner stated that a building downtown had to remove their synthetic turf due to the smell from dogs waste. Mr. Diehl stated that the Human Society has used a specific type of synthetic turf for four (4) years with good results.

ACTION ITEMS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Otay Valley Regional Park - Overview

Ms. Ball, Senior Planner, Park and Recreation Department provided an overview of the Otay Valley Regional Park. This is a joint use park with the County of San Diego, Chula Vista and the City of San Diego. It is the largest of the Open Space Parks. The City maintains 14,000 acres, with joint power of ownership with each jurisdiction being represented. Mr. Sanford, Park Ranger and Mr. Zirkle, Deputy Director of Park and Recreation Department responded to a few questions.

At the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Granowitz recommended including language for limiting special events. Since trail based and working with non-profits so that the funds go back into the park.

202. Using CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles to Invigorate Park Use: Health Equity by Design and Colina del Sol Park Case Study

Ms. Kathleen Ferrier, WalkSanDiego, gave an overview of the current project in City Heights to re-introduce Colina del Sol Park to the community and to make it a safer place for residents and visitors. The CPTED Program is based on four principles: access control, natural surveillance, territoriality, and maintenance continuity, and believes that proper design and effective use of buildings and public spaces in neighborhoods can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life for citizens. The organization Health Equity by Design, along with the residents of Colina del Sol, City Heights CDC, and other organizations, would like to build a partnership with the Park and Recreation Department to make Colina del Sol a active and safe park. Representatives from the City Heights CDC, Proyecto de Casas Saludables, Crawford High School, and the City Heights Business Association also spoke on behalf of their experience with Colina del Sol Park. Several members of the community spoke on the need to find means to increase community participation and ownership of the park to improve the reputation and image of the park and thereby increase park use.

Board Members comments and questions:

- Mr. Stepner would like to see parks designed not as an objects but rather be more closely interwoven into fabric and texture of the surrounding community by linking more directly with surrounding land uses, neighborhood activity patterns and pedestrian and vehicular circulation and transportation systems.

- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like to know what the Board could do to fast track community driven projects. She suggested that perhaps the Department could develop an Ad Hoc approach to facilitate simple, non-cost projects (Mr. Reese remarked that our ability to fast track a community project is dependent on factors including the nature of the project, the organization's capability and the availability of Department resources to support project development and management after commissioning. Ms. Puentes-Reynolds also suggested establishing a time certain for the completion of certain types of projects, i.e. 5 years for the mural; 2 years for the community garden.
- Ms. Granowitz is concerned that the Recreation Council process be respected. She indicated that it was her experience that the Recreation Council may have a different view of the community and its needs a more focused groups. She also expressed concern about raising expectations in time of declining resources. She would like to look to developing projects that that don't involve significant funds but that increase the community's feeling of park ownership.
- Mr. Bussell suggested developing a mentor program to aid groups in completing a project. He indicated that he feels that pairing a project group with a staff member, or someone who understands the process; it would facilitate success and reduce frustration.

Ms. Ferrier of WalkSanDiego thanked the Board on behalf of everyone presenting and reiterated the group's request that the Board / staff simply sit down and have a dialogue with organizations such as the City Heights CDC to look for ways of enhancing neighborhood engagement in the park by possibly streamlining the park process to better use valuable community resources to complement the Park and Recreation Department's resources.

*Mr. Smith arrived at the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, February 17, 2011 2:00 p.m.**

**Balboa Park Club
Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Scott Reese
Park and Recreation Assistant Director